Group to Await Court's Mineral King Decision

SACRAMENTO (UPI) —A Senate committee has decided to await a U.S. Supreme Court decision on the controversial Mineral King recreational development before recommending what the state should do with highway construction funds for the area.

The Senate Transportation Committee Monday temporarily shelved a resolution by Assemblyman Ken MacDonald, D-Ojai, suggesting redistribution of the money if the court blocks the development.

As proposed by MacDonald, the measure asks the state Highway Commission not to schedule any construction for the proposed area until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a law suit seeking to block the development filed by the Sierra Club.

But Sen. Howard Way, R-Exeter, and MacDonald privately agreed that the legislature should suspend action on the Assembly-passed measure until the high bench rules on the suit.

2023.089.149

The Sierra Club contends the $35 million proposed development by Walt Disney Productions would do "irreparable" harm to the natural beauty of the area.

But before the development can be undertaken, the state must build about a 25-mile access road to the central area of the development.